



JUDGES GED FACT SHEET

Alternative Sentencing

KRS 533.200 provides that a person convicted of a misdemeanor, violation, or felony who has not received a graduation certificate from high school or has not passed the GED may be sentenced to attend and successfully complete a program designed to improve reading, living, and employment skills.

The Kentucky Adult Education Act of 2000, Senate Bill 1, required Kentucky Adult Education to conduct an awareness campaign with circuit and district judges of the provisions of KRS 533.200. This is an update to the awareness campaign. Most importantly, research shows that recidivism is reduced when educational levels are improved.

The GED Tests are developed and owned by GED Testing Service™ (GEDTS), a division of the American Council on Education. GEDTS sets the minimum standards for test eligibility as well as the policies and procedures that govern testing. Each state or jurisdiction may set standards above the national GEDTS standards.

GEDTS Eligibility

- ❑ Must be 16 years of age
- ❑ Must not be currently enrolled in regular high school
- ❑ Must not have received a high school diploma in any jurisdiction
- ❑ Must not have received the GED in any jurisdiction
- ❑ Must be a resident of the state

Kentucky Eligibility

- ❑ Must be 16 years of age
- ❑ Must have a Kentucky mailing address
- ❑ Must have documented withdrawal from secondary school
- ❑ Must be withdrawn from secondary school for 90 days
- ❑ Must pass the Official Practice Test as certified by an adult education provider

In addition to being aware of the GED eligibility requirements, judges should note that the timeframe for completing an assigned program depends on the starting educational level of the individual. This should be taken into consideration when sentencing an individual to an educational program. Attaining the GED in a short period of time may not be feasible. An individual can be sentenced to make educational level gains toward a GED with periodic reports from the assigned provider.



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